

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /065 W

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P R 141842Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

SECSTATE WASHDC 0076

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07808

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GW

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY AND F-104 REPLACE-  
MENT

REF: BRUSSELS 4099

1. FRG FOREIGN OFFICE HAS CONFIRMED AND AMPLIFIED SOME-  
WHAT ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PARA TWO REFTEL.  
BELGIUM HAD CALLED A "REUNION PREPERATOIRE" OF THE FRG,  
FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS AND ITSELF TO DISCUSS EXTENDING  
THE AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT  
TO THE MILITARY FIELD. IN THIS "REUNION PREPERATOIRE"  
THE FRG HAD EXPRESSED ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE  
SUBJECT UNLESS IT WERE BEING CONSIDERED BY A LARGER  
GROUP, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING THE UK AND ITALY WHICH  
ARE ITS PARTNERS IN THE MRCA PROJECT. OUR FOREIGN  
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OFFICE SOURCE STATED THAT THE FRG HAD NO RPT NO INTEN-

TION OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE US/FRENCH COMPETITION TO OBTAIN THE F-104 REPLACEMENT CONTRACT WITH THE CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES. THE FRG IS ITSELF NOT INTERESTED IN PURCHASING EITHER THE F-1 OR THE F-16. GERMANY REQUIRES A MORE SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT LIKE THE MRCA OR, IF THAT AIRCRAFT NEVER GOES INTO PRODUCTION, THE F-15.

2. OUR FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE SOURCES DO NOT VERIFY THIS HANDS-OFF ATTITUDE. INDEED THEY CLAIM THAT THEIR MINISTRY HAS BEEN DISCREETLY ENCOURAGING THE CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES TO PURCHASE THE F-16. THEIR ARGUMENT HAS BEEN THAT THE US CONTRIBUTION TO NATO DEFENSE IS SO IMPORTANT THAT IT MAKES POLITICAL SENSE TO BUY AMERICAN RATHER THAN FRENCH.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT EXISTING PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT INVOLVING THE PURCHASE OF EUROPEAN CIVIL AIRCRAFT THE BELGIANS MIGHT HAVE BEEN TRYING TO EXTEND TO THE MILITARY AIRCRAFT FIELD. INDEED, SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH ECON MIN CONTACTS (TO BE REPORTED SEPTEL) HAVE CAST DOUBT ON THE EXISTENCE OF ANY SUCH FORMAL ARRANGEMENT AT LEAST FROM THE RG'S PERSPECTIVE.  
HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

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